

CLAIMS

1. A magneto-resistance device comprising:
 - an anti-ferromagnetic layer;
 - a pinned ferromagnetic layer coupled with said
- 5 anti-ferromagnetic layer such that a direction of spontaneous magnetization of said pinned ferromagnetic layer is fixed;
- a non-magnetic tunnel insulating layer coupled with said pinned ferromagnetic layer; and
- 10 a free ferromagnetic layer coupled with said tunnel insulating layer and having a reversible free spontaneous magnetization,
- wherein said pinned ferromagnetic layer comprises a first composite magnetic layer configured
- 15 to prevent at least one of elements of said anti-ferromagnetic layer from diffusing into said tunnel insulating layer.

2. The magneto-resistance device according to
- 20 claim 1, wherein said anti-ferromagnetic layer contains Mn, and
- said first composite magnetic layer prevents said Mn from diffusing into said tunnel insulating film.

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3. The magneto-resistance device according to
- claim 1 or 2, wherein said first composite magnetic

layer comprises:

ferromagnetic material that has been not
oxidized; and

oxide of a material which is easy to bind with
5 oxygen compared with said ferromagnetic material.

4. The magneto-resistance device according to
claim 3, wherein said ferromagnetic material contains
Co in as a main component.

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5. The magneto-resistance device according to any
of claims 1 to 4, wherein said first composite
magnetic layer is formed from a region of an amorphous
phase as a whole or from a region of said amorphous
15 phase and a region of a crystalline phase.

6. The magneto-resistance device according to
claim 5, wherein said crystalline phase region
contains a plurality of crystal regions, and

20 said plurality of crystal regions pass through
said first composite magnetic layer into a direction
of a thickness of said first composite magnetic layer.

7. The magneto-resistance device according to
25 claim 5 or 6, wherein a composition of said amorphous
phase in said first composite magnetic layer is $D_zM_{1-z}O_x$
($0.6 \leq z \leq 0.9$, and $x > 0$),

said D is at least one selected from the group consisting of Co, Fe and Ni, and

 said M is at least one selected from the group consisting of Ta, Zr, Hf, Nb, and Ce.

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8. The magneto-resistance device according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein said first composite magnetic layer contains a plurality of crystal grains comprising said ferromagnetic material,

10 said plurality of crystal grains are separated from each other by said oxide, and

 a part of said plurality of crystal grains contacts an adjacent one of said plurality of crystal grains.

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9. The magneto-resistance device according to claim 8, wherein said oxide comprises oxide of at least an element selected from the group consisting of Al, Si, Mg and Ti.

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10. The magneto-resistance device according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein said first composite magnetic layer contains a plurality of crystal grains comprising said ferromagnetic material, and

25 said plurality of crystal grains are separated from each other by said oxide and pass through said first composite magnetic layer into a direction of a

thickness of said first composite magnetic layer.

11. The magneto-resistance device according to
claim 10, wherein a part of said plurality of crystal
5 grains contacts an adjacent one of said plurality of
crystal grains.

12. The magneto-resistance device according to
claim 10 or 11, wherein said oxide comprises oxide of
10 at least an element selected from the group consisting
of Al, Si, Mg, Ti, Ta, Hf, Zr, Nb and Ce.

13. The magneto-resistance device according to any
of claims 8 to 12, wherein a thickness of said oxide
15 is thinner than a grain diameter of each of said
plurality of crystal grains.

14. The magneto-resistance device according to
claim 13, wherein the thickness of said oxide is equal
20 to or less than 2 nm.

15. The magneto-resistance device according to
claim 14, wherein an average grain diameter of said
plurality of crystal grains is equal to or less than
25 10 nm.

16. The magneto-resistance device according to any

of claims 8 to 15, wherein ferromagnetic coupling is kept between said plurality of crystal grains.

17. The magneto-resistance device according to any 5 of claims 1 to 16, wherein said pinned ferromagnetic layer further comprises a first metal ferromagnetic layer and a second metal ferromagnetic layer, and said first composite magnetic layer is interposed between said first metal ferromagnetic 10 layer and said second metal ferromagnetic layer.

18. The magneto-resistance device according to any of claims 1 to 17, wherein a resistivity of said first composite magnetic layer is in a range of 10 $\mu\Omega\text{cm}$ to 15 $3000 \mu\Omega\text{cm}$.

19. The magneto-resistance device according to any of claims 1 to 18, wherein said free ferromagnetic layer comprises:

20 a second composite magnetic layer configured to prevent at least one elements of said free ferromagnetic layer from diffusing into said tunnel insulating layer.

25 20. The magneto-resistance device according to claim 19, wherein said free ferromagnetic layer contains Ni, and

said second composite magnetic layer prevents
 said Ni from diffusing into said tunnel insulating
 film.

5 21. The magneto-resistance device according to
 claim 20, wherein said free ferromagnetic layer
 comprises:

 a metal ferromagnetic layer, one of whose
 boundaries is connected to said tunnel insulating
10 layer and the other of whose boundaries is connected
 to said second composite magnetic layer; and

 a soft magnetic layer containing said Ni and
 connected to a boundary of said second composite
 magnetic layer which is an opposite side to said metal
15 ferromagnetic layer.

22. The magneto-resistance device according to
 claim 1 or 2, wherein said pinned ferromagnetic layer
 comprises:

20 a non-magnetic layer; and
 two ferromagnetic layers anti-ferromagnetically
 coupled to each other through said non-magnetic layer.

23. The magneto-resistance device according to
25 claim 19 or 20, wherein said free ferromagnetic layer
 comprises:

 a non-magnetic layer; and

two ferromagnetic layers anti-ferromagnetically coupled through said non-magnetic layer.

24. A magnetic memory comprising:

5 said magneto-resistance device according to any of claims 1 to 23.

25. A method of manufacturing of a magneto-resistance device, comprising:

10 forming the anti-ferromagnetic layer containing Mn above a substrate;

forming a pinned ferromagnetic layer with a fixed spontaneous magnetization on said anti-ferromagnetic layer, wherein said pinned ferromagnetic 15 layer comprises a first composite magnetic layer to prevent said Mn from diffusing into a tunnel insulating layer;

forming said non-magnetic tunnel insulating layer on said pinned ferromagnetic layer; and

20 forming a free ferromagnetic layer with a reversible free spontaneous magnetization on said tunnel insulating layer, and

wherein said first composite magnetic layer is formed to have ferromagnetic material, which has been 25 not oxidized, as a main component and oxide of material which has easiness of binding with oxygen equal to or more than said ferromagnetic material as a

sub component.

26. The method of manufacturing the magneto-resistance device according to claim 25, wherein said
5 forming a pinned ferromagnetic layer comprises:

forming said first composite magnetic layer by carrying out reactive sputtering in a mixed atmosphere of an inactive gas and an oxygen gas by using a target which contains at least one ferromagnetic material
10 selected from the group consisting of Co, Ni and Fe and at least one non-magnetic material selected from the group consisting of Al, Si, the Mg, Ti, Ta, Hf, Zr, Nb and Ce.

15 27. The method of manufacturing the magneto-resistance device according to claim 26, wherein a ratio of a flow rate of the oxygen to a flow rate of the inactive gas in said reactive sputtering is equal to or less than 0.2.